

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 6-10 are rejected.
Claims 1, 2 and 6-10 are herein cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2 and 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cownden et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,316,134) in view of JP 6-296817 (JP '817).

The Office Action argues that **Cownden** discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of replacing water according to the dirtiness of the washing liquid and discharging a washing liquid from the system. The Office Action relies on **JP '817** to provide this teaching. Applicants note that claims 1, 2 and 6-10 are herein cancelled without prejudice. Thus, this rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 3 and 4 are allowable. Thus, Applicants request that allowed claims 3 and 4 be passed on allowance.

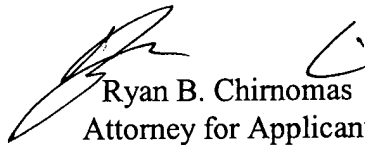
Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Amendment After Final
Serial No. 10/088,497
Attorney Docket No. 020181

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan B. Chirnomas', is written over the printed name.

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